

Amendments to the specification

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 8, line 29 of the application as filed with the following paragraph:

FIGS. ~~1(A-D)~~ 2A-2D. Photomicrographs of cultured cells in umbilical vessel ring assays as described in Section 6.2. A. Positive control. The explant was cultured in media + ~~EGCF~~ endothelial cell growth factor (ECGF) 200 µg/ml. Numerous cells that migrated from the explant surround the explant and the individual cells exhibited extensive outgrowth. B. Negative control. The explant was cultured in placental conditioned media + supplement. In the absence of ~~EGCF~~ ECGF, fewer cells migrated from the explant than in the positive control (A). C. Treatment Group 3. The explant was cultured in placental conditioned media + ~~EGCF~~ ECGF 200 µg/ml + Thalomid™ 100 µg/ml. In the presence of 100 µg/ml of Thalomid™, cells migrated a shorter distance from the explant than in the positive control (A). D. Treatment Group 2. The explant was cultured in placental conditioned media + ~~EGCF~~ ECGF 200 µg/ml + Thalomid™ 10 µg/ml. In the presence of 10 µg/ml of Thalomid™, cells migrated a shorter distance from the explant and they exhibited less dense outgrowth than in the positive control (A).

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 9, line 8 of the specification as filed with the following paragraph:

FIGS. ~~2(A-C)~~ 3A-3C. Photomicrographs of cultured cells in umbilical vessel ring assays as described in Section 6.2. A. Control. Cells were cultured in placental conditioned media + ECGF 200 µg/ml + DMSO 1 µg/ml. B. Cells were cultured in placental conditioned media + ECGF 200 µg/ml + DMSO 1 µg/ml + Thalomid™ 1 µg/ml. Fewer cells are seen than in the control (A). ~~[[B]]~~ C. Cells were cultured in placental conditioned media + ECGF 200 µg/ml + DMSO 1 µg/ml + Thalomid™ 10 µg/ml. Fewer cells are seen than in the control (A) or in (B).

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 9, line 14 of the specification as filed with the following paragraph:

FIGS. ~~3(A-B)~~ 1A and 1B. Photomicrographs of cultured cells in umbilical vessel ring assays as described in Section 6. A. Control. Cells were cultured in placental conditioned media + DMSO. Cells exhibit predominantly a non-branching (*e.g.*, endothelial) phenotype. B. Cells were cultured in placental conditioned media + DMSO + Thalomid™. More cells exhibit a branching (*e.g.*, neuronal) phenotype than in the control (A).

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 59, line 26 of the specification as filed with the following paragraph:

Blood vessels, approximately 1-2 mm in diameter and 1-2 cm in length, were excised from human umbilical cord within 12 hours of birth. Both arterial and venous tissue were harvested and maintained separately. The vessels were placed in DMEM containing 2.5 µg/ml of fungizone and cut into 1-2 mm length fragments using fine dissecting forceps and iridectomy scissors. Vessel fragments were freed of residual clots and soaked in DMEM before use. Dissecting and sectioning of vessels were performed with the aid of a surgical microscope. Similar angiogenic responses were obtained from blood vessels of venular and arterial origin but for each assay, vessel fragments from only one vessel were used. *See* FIG. 6 for a graphic depiction of the assay ~~setu~~ setup.

Please replace the paragraph at page 63, line 21 of the specification as filed with the following paragraph:

The following experiments evaluated the effects of ThalomidTM, ActimidTM and RevimidTM on the morphological differentiation of embryonic-like stem cells derived from placenta. The morphological differentiation of cultured embryonic-like stem cells was evaluated after fourteen days of culture in the presence of placental conditioned medium and with DMSO (control), ~~EGCF~~ ECGF, ThalomidTM, ActimidTM or RevimidTM. Cells were examined and scored for the presence of various cell markers, as well as scored for morphological appearance, such as total area occupied in the culture dish and the amount of branching and/or bifurcation exhibited.

Please replace the paragraph at the top of page 66 of the specification as filed with the following paragraph:

In another experiment, the results of which are summarized in Table 4, embryonic-like stem cells derived from placenta were cultured, using the culture conditions described above, and in the presence of ~~EGCF~~ ECGF, DMSO, ThalomidTM, ActimidTM or RevimidTM.